

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4447

INF AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 17059

STATE FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: CULTURALPRESENTATIONS: JOFFREY BALLET

REF: STATE 244824

1. GOSKONTSERT ADVISED EMBASSY FOR FIRST TIME NOV. 11 THAT TRAVEL TIME IN DECEMBER BY TRUCK BETWEEN VILNIUS AND MOSCOW IS TWO AND ONE-HALF DAYS BECAUSE OF WEATHER AND ROAD CONDITIONS. HEAVY SNOWS HAVE BEGUN THIS WEEK. GOSK URGENTLY REQUESTS JOFFREY REVISE PROGRAM SO THAT ALL PROPERTIES FOR THE FIRST TWO MOSCOW PERFORMANCES TRAVEL FROM VILNIUS TO MOSCOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER DECEMBER FOURTH VILNIUS PERFORMANCE. IN ADDITION, ALL PROPERTIES NOT RPT NOT SCHEDULED FOR USE IN VILNIUS BUT FOR MOSCOW WILL BE SENT DIRECTLY FROM RIGA.

2. IN OTHER WORDS, ALL BALLETS TO BE PERFORMED THE FIRST TWO DAYS IN MOSCOW CANNOT BE PERFORMED IN VILNIUS AFTER DECEMBER FOURTH. DECEMBER 7 DEPARTUER OF PROPERTIES FROM VILNIUS AND DEC. 7 ARRIVAL MOSCOW, AS MENTIONED STATE 244824, NOT POSSIBLE.

3. EMBASSY AWARE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS THIS WILL CAUSE JOFFREY AND REGRETS LATE REALIZATION ON GOSK'S PART, BUT BELIEVES PROBLEM AROSE BECAUSE REGULAR GOSK TRAVEL EXPERT OUT OF COUNTRY UNTIL RECENTLY WITH ANOTHER GROUP. WHEN PROBLEM CAME UP AT MORNING MEETING NOVEMBER 11, EMBOFFS ASKED AGAIN IF MOSCOW PREMIERE COULD BE CHANGED TO DECEMBER 10

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IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTIES RAISED BY GOSK'S NEW REQUEST. GOSK

REMAINS ADAMANT ABOUT DECEMBER 9TH OPENING EVEN THOUGH THEY CANNOT GUARANTEE EARLY ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW OF PROPERTIES AND STAGE EQUIPMENT USED IN VILNIUS AFTER DECEMBER 4TH.

4. IF JOFFREY CAN ARRANGE PROGRAM AS REQUESTED ABOVE, ELECTRICS REMAIN OUTSTANDING PROBLEM. TWO ALTERNATIVES ARE AVAILABLE: (A) USING THEATER LIGHTS IN VILNIUS AND SHIPPING ELECTRICS DIRECT FROM RIGA, AND (B) SHIPPING ELECTRICS IN EARLY HOURS DECEMBER 7TH, WITH EXPECTED ARRIVAL BY NOON DECEMBER 9TH, PREMIERE DAY. ADVISE IF EITHER FEASIBLE.

5. BELIEVE IT VERY USEFUL IF CRAWFORD COULD ARRIVE TWO DAYS EARLY TO REVIEW LOGISTICS AND THEATER SITUATION: IS THIS POSSIBLE?

6. CURTAIN TIMES FOR MATINEES 1300 EVERYWHERE; EVENING PERFORMANCES 1930 EVERYWHERE EXCEPT MOSCOW WHERE IT WILL BE 1900. STOESEL

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